

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 04374 110751 Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /068 W

----- 035575

R 110651 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 4374

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP JA US PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF IMPERIAL VISIT TO US

SUMMARY: TOKYO PRESS APRIL 11 CONTINUED LOW- KEY COVERAGE OF POSSIBLE IMPERIAL VISIT TO US, NOW GENERALLY FORECAST TO TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER. IN REPORTING GOJ STATEMENTS IN DIET AND ELSEWHERE, PRESS CAST GOJ LEADERS IN ROLE OF PERSUADING IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY OFFICIALS THAT VISIT WOULD NOT BE UTILIZED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE. PRESS ALSO REPORTED JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA STATEMENT IN PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 10 THAT JSP OPPOSED TO VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY MORIYOSHI MORINAKA (JSP) IN UPPER HOUSE BUDGET SESSION APRIL 10, PRIMIN TANAKA REPORTED TO HAVE DENIED THAT GOJ INTENDS TO USE PROJECTED IMPERIAL VISIT TO US FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE. PRIMIN STATED THAT IDEA FOR INVITATION FOR IMPERIAL VISIT CAME FROM US SIDE, AND ALSO REVEALED THAT GOJ HAS COMMUNICATED ITS WISH TO WASHINGTON THAT PRESIDENT NIXON VISIT JAPAN. PRIMIN QUOTED AS SAYING QTE VISIT DEPENDS ON EMPEROR' S OWN DECISION UNQTE.

2. ON ANOTHER TACK, MORINAKA ASKED WHETHER IT TRUE THAT AMBASSADOR USHIBA HAD INSPIRED INVITATION FOR IMPERIAL VISIT. FONMIN OHIRA FLATLY DENIED THIS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER GOJ SHOULD BETTER LEAVE IMPERIAL VISIT QUESTION ENTIRELY TO IHA OFFICIALS, FONMIN OHIRA SAID THAT HE HAS NOT TRIED TO CONTACT IHA OFFICIALLY. FONMIN OHIRA ALSO QUOTED AS EXPLAINING THAT CURRENT PROBLEMS BETWEEN JAPAN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 04374 110751 Z

AND US HAVE ARISEN NATURALLY FROM CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM, BUT THAT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO USE IMPERIAL VISIT TO TRY TO IMPROVE JAPAN- US RELATIONS.

3. ASKED IN SAME BUDGET SESSION WHETHER HE WAS CONSULTED ABOUT VISIT, DEPUTY GRAND STEWARD NOBUOSHI URYU SAID THAT HE WAS INFORMED UNOFFICIALLY, AND THAT IHA WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL CIRCUMSTANCES IN STUDYING ADVISABILITY OF IMPERIAL VISIT.

4. FOLLOWING REGULAR CABINET MEETING APRIL 10, FONMIN OHIRA TOLD PRESS THAT HE, OR CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUSUMU NIKAI DO, WOULD CONFER WITH IHA GRAND STEWARD TAKESHI USAMI TO COORDINATE VIEWS ON VISIT SHORTLY AFTER USAMI RETURNS FROM MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE APRIL 13, WHERE HE ACCOMPANIED EMPEROR FOR ANNUAL ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING CEREMONY. ACCORDING TO PRESS INTERPRETATION, STATEMENT HINTS AT GOJ CONFIDENCE OF OVERCOMING IHA CONCERN THAT IMPERIAL VISIT MIGHT BE USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE.

5. YOMIURI SPECULATED THAT MINFIN AICHI, DURING AUDIENCE FOLLOWING RETURN FROM C-20 MEETING IN WASHINGTON, CONVEYED PRESIDENT' S STRONG DESIRE TO HOST VISIT DIRECTLY TO EMPEROR.

6. IN APRIL 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, JSP CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO VISIT BY HIS PARTY, ON GROUNDS IT DESIGNED BY PRIMIN TANAKA TO RECOVER HIS GOVERNMENT' S SAGGING POPULARITY, AND TO DIVERT POPULAR ATTENTION FROM INFLATION, PRICES, SPECULATION AND OTHER PRESSING DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. JSP THUS JOINS JCP, ALREADY ON RECORD, IN EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO IMPERIAL VISIT.
INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO04374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730439/aaaaiekh.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Nov-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <23-Nov-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971222
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF IMPERIAL VISIT TO US
TAGS: OVIP, PINT, JA, US
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005